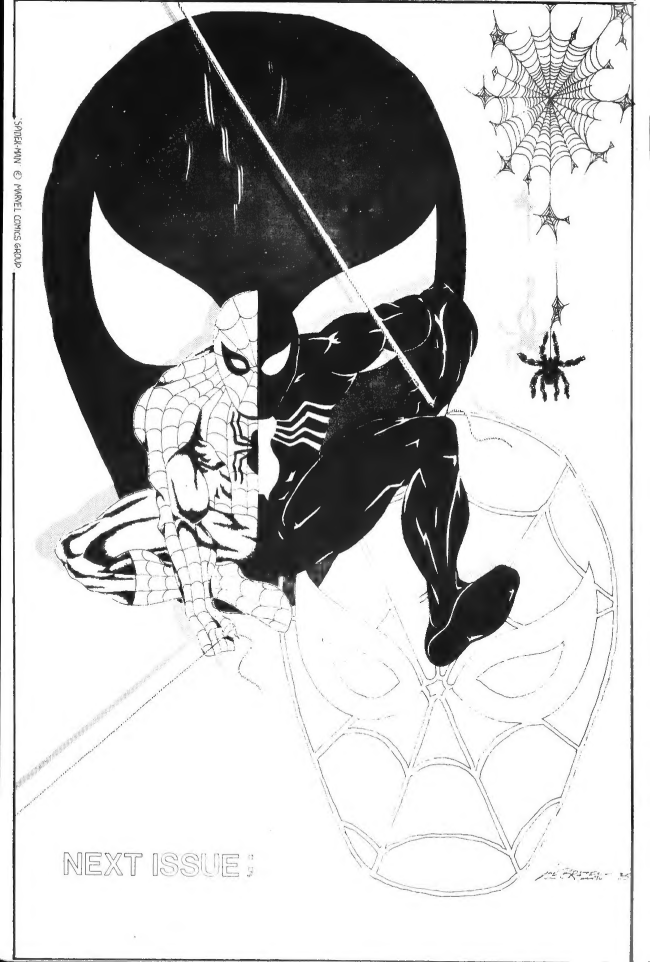
FANTASTIC FANZINE

No. 8
$1.00



SPIDER-MAN © MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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YE GOOD OL' EDITOR'S PAGE

PART VIII THE NEW BEGINNING

I don't know how other editors do it, but I always save the editors page for the very *last thing*. FF#8 goes to press in the morning (actually, it's morning now. I always do my best work after midnight!), and I like to be right on top of things going on in my 'baby'. You never know what's going to happen next in this crazy business. Crazy, but fun! Anyhow, there's lots of news this issue, so let's get right into the nitty gritty before I start aimlessly rambling on and on as I've been known to do at times in the past. Like the time when me an' Ralph was cruisin around in his ol' blue bomb an'...oops!

First off, I'd like to welcome aboard a fine, new artistic talent by the name of Mark Bloodworth. His work graces the cover of our mag this ish, plus he does the six page FELONIOUS KATT tale inside. I'm impressed.

Flip the book over and you'll find a beautiful Spiderman rendered by our good friend from Florida, Joe Brozowski, whom we hope to be receiving stuff from on a regular basis. He's working on a four pager right now. I can't tell you what it is. It's a *secret*!

Inside, we have a couple of gems from Randy Zimmerman and Guy Davis continuing the TINKER TALON and STAR CORPS sagas respectively. Both Guy and Randy are working on TOP SECRET/EYES ONLY projects for Fantasy Unlimited, FANTASTIC FANZINE'S parent company (if you think I'm full of hype here, you should hear some of the lines I use on women!).

Be sure to check out the SMALL PRESS REPORT. These guys are fans of the comic book medium itself and are having a good time with it, putting out their own mags and doing some very original, unusual stuff. If you're into the small press and want us to review your book or your art or writing in SPR, send us a copy of your latest publication. You'll get a free ad in our new classified section starting next issue. The rates are 5¢ per word, but small pressers can get up to 40 words free for their mags. This will be a one shot offer only, meaning that the first time you send us something you are eligible for the offer.

Small pressers aren't the only ones who should be writing in. Anyone with a comment about FANTASTIC FANZINE, or comics in general should drop us a line. We're a pretty open forum and I'd like to see people take advantage of that fact. Also, we're always looking for new talent, especially writers and, at the moment, inkers.

I'd like to thank whoever it was at Capital City Distribution Company who decided to give FF a shot and put us in their catalog for distribution. Capital is a large company, handling the accounts of over 700 comic shops in the continental U.S. I don't think FANTASTIC FANZINE'S gonna make or break 'em, but it sure will do us a lot of good. I guess this means we're going to have to work that much harder to make sure we're delivering a quality product to you the reader (all the more reason for you to write in and tell us what we're doing right and wrong).

As you may have noticed, we've increased the page count to 28 and hopefully we'll be going to 32 in an issue or two (with no price increases). By the way, due to reader reaction, we will NOT be splitting the zine into two mags, as we were talking about a while back. FF will remain in its present format featuring both articles and art.

That about covers it this time around. Enjoy the mag and PLEASE let us know what you think. I can't stress enough how important that is.

Stu

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FANTASTIC FANZINE is distributed by: Capital City Distribution, 2827 Perry Street, Madison, WI. 53713.
And if you bothered to read this stuff I hope you enjoyed it. Bye!

__FULL PAGE__ $75.00
Original size: 17 in. height; 11 in. width

__HALF PAGE__ $40.00
Original size: 8½ in. height; 11 in. width

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__CLASSIFIED ADS__ ....5¢ per word
No minimum or maximum number of words

__WHAT TO INCLUDE WITH YOUR AD__
a) Full payment in the form of check or money order made payable to FANTASY UNLIMITED
b) The issue number in which you wish your ad to appear
c) The address and phone number at which you can be reached if other than that in your ad

__OTHER NOTES__
a) Use black ink on white paper
b) You must assume all responsibility for the contents of your ad.
c) FANTASTIC FANZINE reserves the right to reject any material which is in poor taste or is questionable in nature

__The ad deadline for issue #9 is Tuesday, July 2__

American HEROES

Don't miss the AMERICAN HEROES convention on June 29-30 at the Taylor Sheridan Community Center 12111 Pardee Rd., Taylor, Michigan. This is a benefit show for CHILDRENS HOSPITAL of MICHIGAN. There will be many guests including TV's Batman Adam West, Spiderman, Terry Austin, Louise Simonson, Bill Loebs, Nadine Loebs, Fred Hembeck, Dan Mishkin, Scott McCloud, Randy Zimmerman, Don Simpson, Dan Jurgens, Sid Jacobson, Trina Robbins, Eastman & Laird, Larry Hama, Brent Anderson, Lela Dowling, plus representatives from the Detroit Tigers, Pistons, Lions, and Red Wings. Also, don't be surprised if some unexpected names just happen to show up! Tickets are available at local comic shops and from Gary Sibley, convention coordinator, P.O. Box 39532 Redford, Michigan, 48239 (313) 272-5651.

ADVANCE TICKETS: 1-Day Pass $6.00 2-Day Pass $8.00
Children under 12- $3.00 per day

TICKETS AT THE DOOR: 1-Day Pass $5.00 2-Day Pass $10.00
Children under 12- $4.00 per day

the CIRCUIT

The Detroit area convention circuit. Why is it so full of controversy and animosity? Is it the natural result of small conventions or is this situation unique to Southeastern Michigan? What can be done to remedy the problem?

In this first installment of THE CIRCUIT, we talked with Karen Prister of the BOOK BIN comic shop, and Rodger Shoen of the Dearborn Warehouse for Capital City Distribution Co. They feel that the major problem with conventions is that there are too many of them, that they are hurting the retail comic outlets in the area.

K.P.: "What you have is the customers are just getting a cheap show, one that a lot of people feel obligated to do. A lot of retailers feel that way, a lot of customers feel that way. 'If I don't go to this one, I might miss something.' It's going to kill the market."

If you're not setting up a table at a convention, you probably don't realize how tedious it can be to sit there all day when you know that you'll be doing the same thing next Sunday and probably every other Sunday 'til who knows when.

K.P.: "Can you imagine how it is for the retailers who work, who have stores open six or seven days a week? And if they don't go after putting out the flyers, the customers are going to be there. Sales are down every time there's a convention. There's no two ways about that and we *promote* them!"

At one time there was talk of a comic retailers association to control, to a certain extent, the frequency, location, etc. of conventions. It never really made it off the ground and seemed to end up causing more animosity between dealers.

K.P.: "What other business gives out their customers on loan? Here's the flyers, I'm sending you to my competition. And that's one thing that has caused problems amongst retailers.

"I have never wanted to do conventions. I don't care for them. When you go to sell your business, the worth of your business is estimated by the number of customers, the goodwill that you have. Comic books and baseball cards are about the only two businesses that hand that value and that worth out for everybody. So, I've always been against cons and now we're in the position of sponsoring one.

"Our idea in buying it (the show which used to be run by Gary Sibley) was to protect the retailers' stores. Mainly our own, I won't say anything other than that, but it'll also protect other local retailers. Let's face it, if we didn't buy the show someone else would've and we'd have shows every *three* weeks. Someone who is not involved in the retail aspect just would not care. Why should they? If they make even a small amount of money and it's a good time for them...

"I think it'll be good for conventions to have retailers involved for the simple reason that we are concerned with the long term maintenance, protection and promotion of our product. We are not here to do a show a month for a year and then disappear. We have businesses, we have a lot invested."

"We want to put on a quality show that people will enjoy. It will not be the same thing as a trip to your neighborhood comic store. We're going to try to center our conventions around a theme, each one a different theme. We want some kind of excitement around these things, not oh, no, not another one!"

R.S.: "We talked to Mike (Lester) as retailers saying, Mike, look, do you understand our point of view? We'll support your conventions. We'll put out your flyers. We'll promote the hell out of it...(& you give us something. Cut back on the frequency. Move it around so it isn't killing someone in that area every time you have it."

K.P.: "We order in advance. That's stuff we're gonna eat every time there's a con down the street from us."

R.S.: "Mike Lester said to us: I like to think of my con as a retail outlet. Uh-uh. I pay rent every day of the week. There's a big difference between a hobby and feeding your family."

K.P.: "Hey, where do you get your customers, Mike? Have you been open for two years? Have you cultivated an area? Have you worked day after day at this?"

R.S.: "Stu Shapiro in the 70's, Michael Lester in the 80's. What's the point in me having a business? I'll just set up a con every week. Come see me."

K.P.: "You really shouldn't be doing a convention to make money. We're promoting the product."

R.S.: "It's a business, but it's a hobby, so where do you draw the line coming from the retailers' end and the hobby end?"

That's what we want to find out. In upcoming installments of THE CIRCUIT, we will be talking to others involved in conventions: Convention sponsors, retailers, dealers, fans, etc., to get as many different views on conventions as possible, to get different *solutions* to the problem. If you have an opinion to express or an idea you think may improve the con situation in the Southeastern Michigan area, please write to: THE CIRCUIT c/o FANTASTIC FANZINE

REVIEWS

Beginning this month, I have been granted space to express my views and opinions of the last month's comics. I'll begin by listing the best five of the month and then give you my tho'ts on some of the other books that have graced the shelves of comic shops in the last 45 days.

1. 1. GRIMJACK #13- Gaunt gets beat up, then becomes a suspect in his attacker's murder. Ostrander weaves another great tale.
2. DETECTIVES, INC. #1 & #2- Excellent story of suspense and human relationships.
3. CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS #5- Merging Earths create chaos for all.
4. AMERICAN FLAGG! #23- Chapter one of a new Flagg story. If you've never read it, this would be a good place to start!
5. 5. DREADSTAR #19- The trap is sprung on Dreadstar and company. Starlin's art is gorgeous.

The Black Mask debuts in BATMAN #386 and, as the cover suggests, he is nasty and nutty. Doug Moench's newest creation is bizarre and intriguing. For those who like origin issues, check this one out.

I had planned on doing a HEROES UNKNOWN column on Starslayer, but, if you pick up STARSLAYER #31, you'll see that John Ostrander has done it for me.

CONT. ON PAGE 12...

HE IS THE CRIMELORD OVER THE EAST SIDE OF THE CITY. SINCE HE TOOK OVER THE 'TERRITORY' LAST YEAR, THE CRIME RATE HAS DROPPED 75%. HE HAS STOPPED MORE CRIMES THAN HE HAS COMMITTED. HE FINDS THIS VERY DISCOURAGING AND WONDERS IF IT IS ALL WORTH IT. NOW HE IS READY TO QUIT....

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF

FELONIOU$ KATT

THERE YOU GO AGAIN FEL. ACTING JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY WITHOUT YOUR HOBBY.

HAPPY!?
MY LIFE'S BEEN MESSED UP SINCE I GOT TA DIS CRUMMY TOWN.
I'M FAILING!
AN' YOU AIN'T HELPIN' NONE!

I... I DIDN'T MEAN US, SAM.

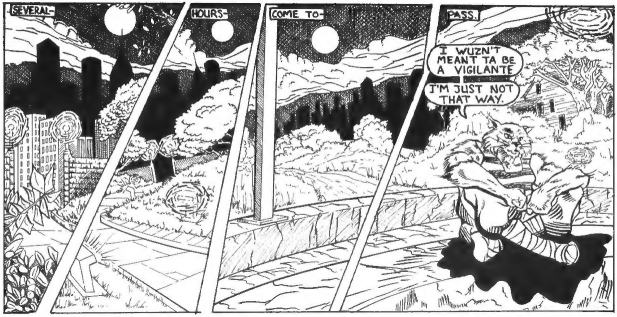
THINGS JUST AIN'T WORKIN'.
I SEE.
NOT YOU, SAM, IT'S THE BUSINESS.

YOU'RE RIGHT, FEL. IT'S NOT WORKING.
I JUST GOTTA FIND... SUMTHIN'.
I DON'T KNOW.

THE ONE I LOVE FOLLOWS HIS HEART AND DOESN'T JUST GIVE UP IF THINGS AREN'T GOING RIGHT.

GO AND FIND YOUR... SOMETHING. IF IT DOESN'T TELL YOU TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED...
DON'T BOTHER COMING BACK.

WELL, THAT'S JUST—
FINE!

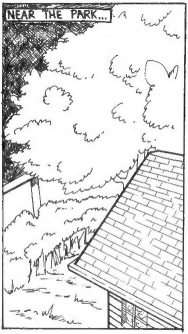

SEVERAL-
HOURS-
COME TO-
PASS.
I WUZN'T MEANT TA BE A VIGILANTE
I'M JUST NOT THAT WAY.

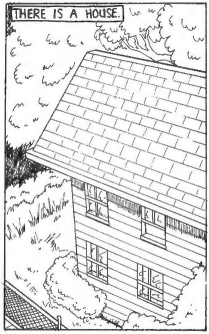
BUT, THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN DOIN'.

SURE, SOME THINGS IS RIGHT AN' SOME IS WRONG, BUT...

THIS JUS' AIN'T MAKIN' NO SENSE.
IT'S TEARIN' M'INNARDS APART.

FROM NOW ON I TAKE CARE A MYSELF ONLY. I HELP NOBODY.
NOBODY.


NEAR THE PARK...


THERE IS A HOUSE.

IT IS THE HOUSE WHERE TOMMY HARPER LIVES. HIS FATHER IS AN ALCHOHOLIC AND HAS JUST COME HOME.
TOMMY!
GET READY BOY I'M GONNA BUST YER BUTT!
I TOLD YA A HUNNERT TIMES
NOT TA LEAVE THAT BATHROOM LIGHT ON!
PLEASE, DADDY! NO! I'M SORRY!
PLEASE!
OWW! NO!
I (SOB) WON'T-
DO IT-
AGAIN!
I TOLD YA-
BEFORE-
NOT TA-
LEAVE ON-
THAT LIGHT!
PLEASE (SOB) NO MORE!!
AIN'T NONE'A MY BIZNESS.
PLEASE DADDY! (SOB)
I MADE UP M'MIND. NO HELPIN' NO ONE.
BUT, RIGHT IS RIGHT.
AN' I LIKED DA WAY I WUZ BEFORE!

KKREESH
PLEASE (SOB) N-NO MORE! (SOB)
WHAT TH-!?
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK...
"YER DOIN'?"
THIS IS MY HOUSE!
YA GOT NO RIGHT BUSTIN' IN HERE!
SHUT YER TRAP!
LET ME TELL YA 'BOUT RIGHTS.
YA AIN'T GOT NONE.
YA GOT NO RIGHT TA BEAT A KID LIKE THAT.
SMAK!
NOT EVEN YER OWN SON!
PLEASE, MISTER.
STOP!

IT'S ALRIGHT. HE'S MY DAD. IT WASN'T THAT BAD.
NO, IT'S NOT ALRIGHT. NO ONE – NOT EVEN YER DAD – HAS THE RIGHT TA HIT YA LIKE THAT.
BUT, MISTER–
NO ONE BUT NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TA DO THAT TO YA, YA UNNER-STAND ME?
YES, SIR.

NOW, I THINK YER DAD HAS LEARNED A LESSON. BUT IF HE EVER DOES IT AGAIN PROMISE ME DAT YA WON'T LET 'IM GET AWAY WIT' IT.
I PROMISE.

REMEMBER, I'M ALWAYS AROUND... AN' SO IS DA COPS. DON'T BE AFRAID TA GIVE A HOLLER.
I'LL REMEMBER, AN' MISTER–THANKS.
YEP...
"I LIKES IT DIS WAY."

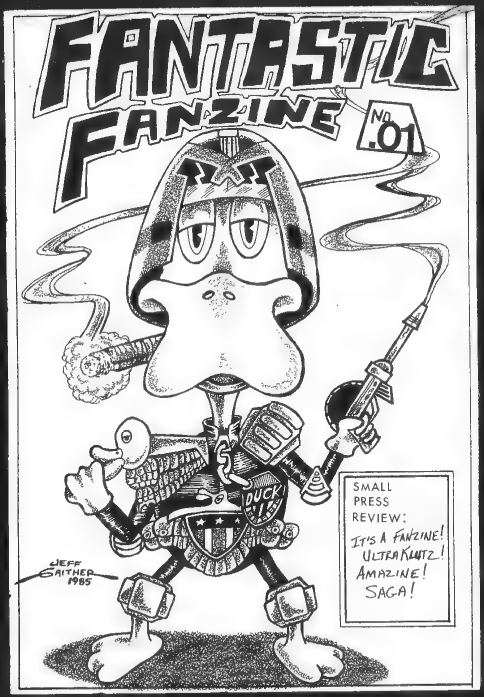
SAM?

I FOUND IT...

"AN' YOU WUZ RIGHT."
CLIK!
FINIS

SMALL PRESS

REPORT



Welcome to the first installment of the SMALL PRESS REPORT. This continuing feature will cover the publications, artists, writers, publishers and characters that are part of the small press or fandom 'network'. In the classified section of the CBG, and moreso in Kevin Collier's FAN SCENE (nee FANDOM TIMES), you can find literally hundreds of ads for mini-comics, fanzines, amateur art portfolios, etc., by individuals who have decided to actively participate in the comic art field. The small press is not for people who aren't quite good enough for mainstream comics, nor is it merely a stepping stone, a place to 'hang out' until you break into mainstream comics. It is an end unto itself, a seperate medium with a (not so) small, loyal audience. In fact, small press fans don't neccesarily read mainstream comics at all.

Small press publications, being on a much smaller scale than, let's say, THE X-MEN, have the unique ability to be vastly different, to explore new ground that the 'big companies' steer away from. Granted, they are not as slick, but neither do they have multi-million dollar corporations behind them. Comics should be judged by their artistic content and not the number of dollars used to produce them.

Looking at the covers shown on these two pages, you will see very few similarties with 'standard' comic book covers or even with each other. Styles are much more recognizable with this loose-structured art form. These guys took the idea that, hey, comics are fun, man, and ran with it! They are funny, they are tragic. They have messages, they are purely for entertainment. They have super heroes and they have the 'Acorn Kid'. They even have a small press comic version of Shakespeare's Hamlet, okay? Whatever you want, you can find it in the small press world. And if you can't find it, then, by golly, you can put it out yourself!

The first mag I'd like to explore is IT'S A FANZINE by Gene Kehoe and the Iowa Comic Book Club. It is published five times a year and features articles on Golden Age books, reviews of current mainstream comics, a wonderful column called FORGOTTEN HEROES, in-depth articles dealing with trends (current or otherwise) in comics, and a host of writers including Kehoe himself who are knowlegable about comics and are highly literate. I personally recommend this book to anyone who reads comics and is interested in learning a little more about the field. I enjoyed it.

Jeff Nicholson's ULTRA KLUTZ AND OTHER TALES is a take off on the Ultra Man Japanese TV show. It's funny and the art (see above) is very good. Don't look for strict continuity here. Nicholson's character jumps from adventure to adventure, never actually defeating any of his giant foes. Ultra Klutz is a comic book character and is treated like one. His head is ripped off, giant frogs stick pitch forks in his arm, he burns himself catching disabled airplanes and the like. Still, it's all done in fun and UK always bounces back for more, though he's been known to run away at times, too. Good back up stories in there, also, with John Howard's INSIPID SIX and some of Nicholson's editorial stories. Good stuff, Maynard!

Back to Mr. Kehoe and the Iowa Comic Book Club, again, with AMAZINE, a well put together stripzine. It features the cover story GRUBBING WITH BOSCO by Dave Garcia about a radiation-scarred Earth inhabited by both man and mutant. Very bizarre, funny characters in constant battle for food or grub. HEALER by Rick Brooks and C.A. Todd was a little rough around the edges, but still good. My favorite of the trio of strips was COLD TURKEY by Francis Mao. Mao's art is worth a thousand words and I can relate to the message. I look forward to

I can relate to the message. INVASION OF THE ZYGONAUTS? Sorry, Bob, I think you were trying to make a point, but it didn't come off that way. Three out of four ain't bad.

SAGA from Fourth Dimension Comics HQ'ed in Holland, Michigan, is an anthology book containing superhero-type characters. I think it is difficult to read small press superhero books, because the natural reaction is to compare them to Marvel or DC books. Nevertheless, SAGA does manage to offer some very good stripzine art and a few surprises in the writing department. Andrew Pepoy, artist on NUCLEAR FLARE, puts a lot of detail in his work, though he has a few problems with proportion and his characters sometimes look a little stiff. Still, he shows a great deal of potential and I'm going to keep my eye on him. Nick (Nasty) Alenikov is another artist to watch for. He is the artist on THE IRON MASK strip. Simple, stylized work with a little of the Japanese flare to it. Colin Longcore and Steve Davison bring us A TRULY WEIRD STORY featuring a character named Pyst in issue #4. Pyst fights and defeats Role Playing Man who wears a TSR banner in this light-hearted four pager.

If you would like to check these books out yourself, they are available by mail-order from the publishers:

IT'S A FANZINE
#9, 10, 11.....50¢
#16, 21, 22....$1
#18, 20, 26....$1.25
#25.....$2
Gene Kehoe 8708 Carole Circle #11
Urbandale, IA 50322
Also, same address...
AMAZINE #1.....$1.25

ULTRA KLUTZ
#1, 2.....75¢
#1 (underground comic with color, glossy cover. Adults only.).....$1.25
Klutz Enterprises P.O. Box 3684
Chico, CA 95927

SAGA
#1-5.....75¢ plus postage
(50¢ first book, 15¢ each add'l)
Fourth Dimension Comics 1313 Natcher S
Holland, MI 49423

Small Press Report will return next issue of FANTASTIC FANZINE bringing you more news about the world of independent (and I mean independent!) comics. Special thanks to Kevin Collier for all those tiny, little covers I cut right out of FANDOM TIMES #9. I don't know how long it'll take me to cover all the ones shown (not to mention the hundreds of others, and the people behind them), but I know that it will be fun writing this column and I hope it'll be just as much fun for you reading it.

Well, by now you all have your new COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE, so let's take a brow-through it...hmmm...nice Captain Marvel cover by C.C.Beck. Too bad it's marred by that "completely revised and updated edition" banner. Not to mention that outrageous $10.95 price tag. Oh, well...I see Robert Bell and Howard Rugofsky are still in business...and there's good ol' Ken Mitchell, followed by all the preliminary stuff...hmmm, Page A-27: "The Final Wave of Comic Books", quite an interesting feature...on to more of the preliminary stuff ...Oh no! Here it comes. The ads!...whew, only 14 pages, so far...and now, for one of my favorite sections. All those beautiful color covers reprinted for all us guys who can't afford 'em. Thanks, guys! ...After some more ads and preliminary stuff again, we move to a nice article on C.C.Beck (A-78 to A-93). This piece was almost worth the $10.95...Naahh... Not again! More ads. From A-94 to A-176. Way too much for me, folks...Ah, now to the meat and potatoes pages (1 to 380) ...There's CEREBUS, finally...What? No TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES? For shame... Waitaminute! More ads? Let's just skip pages 381 to 400 to get to more of those color covers from the Golden Era...Wow, won't that great?!...They Just Don't Quit Dogit, with the rest of this publication taken up by, you guessed it, Ads! You know.

With all these ads Mr. Overstreet must be making a fortune! I wonder, if I talk to Da Snoop if we could possibly come out with DA SNOOP'S OUTTA-DIS-WORLD PRICE GUIDE, sell lots of ads, become rich, and sit around influencing the minds of fans and dealers alike. Sounds like fun to me.

Check us out next time. We'll have a closer look at pages 1 thru 380!

For $1.25, you can find out what has happened to Torin since issue #1, displayed with splendid artwork by Jon Eddings and Mark Nelson, plus a ten page Black Flame back-up to boot!

I think Mr. Byrne is asking a bit much of us to believe this latest story of resurrection. "The possibility the massive power surge of the blast might be used to rupture the space-time continuum"? The largest moon of Jupiter? 10,000 years in the past? Suspended animation? A free ride home? Give me a break. All of this is to explain how Guardian survived the explosion at the end of ALPHA FLIGHT #12. Yes, friends, James Hudson is alive and well as of issue #25, though I'm not buying it. If there's one thing I've learned about John Byrne, it's never to believe these three words in any of his books: "He (she, it) is DEAD!"

Other recommended titles:
AMAZING SPIDERMAN #267
HUGO #3
NEXUS #11
NEW TEEN TITANS #11
CROSSFIRE #10
DRAGONFLY #1
THUNDERBUNNY #1

THIS IS BARBRA WALRUS, FOR THE ANIVERSAL BROADCAST COMPANY CONTINUING MY SPECIAL REPORT. I TURNED TO BARKY; OWNER OF 'BARKY'S SPIRITS AND SWILL', AND ASKED FOR HIS ANSWER TO THE BURNING QUESTION...
WHO IS TINKERNATION?
WELL MA'AM, WHAT I KNOW ABOUT "TINKER" COULD FILL A COUPLE OF HOURS!
CONTINUING: A TOUR OF THE ANIVERSE AS CONCEIVED BY...
RANDY ZIMMERMAN
COPYRIGHT © 1985
LET ME TELL YOU WANT HAPPENED TO HIM AN' ME JUST LAST CYCLE. IT'S A REAL HOWLER!

I HAD ORDERED A BARTENDING DROID FROM TINKER. I WAS QUITE SURPRISED AT WHAT CAME ROLLING INTO MY BAR ABOUT A WEEK LATER...

WHAT KIND OF HYDRANT IS THIS?!!

I DON'T KNOW! I WAS JUS' PAID TO BRING HIM HERE!

"CHATTER"

"SPUTTER!!!"

GO

MR. TALON ALSO WANTED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS INSTRUCTION TAPE AND TELL YOU HE'D SEE YOU ON HIS REGULAR ROUNDS!

:SIGH: O.K., THANKS J.B.

TINKER MAKES "ROUNDS" EVERY CYCLE OR SO. HE DOES ODD JOBS FOR FOLKS TO MAKE ENOUGH CREDS TO LIVE ON AND BUY TOOLS AND PARTS FOR HIS INVENTIONS.

WHY DOES MR. TALON DO THIS BARKY?

IT'S A LIVING, I GUESS! NOW AS I WAS SAYING...

THE INSTUCTIONS WERE SIMPLE. BUT "SPICKET" HAD A FEW... A... SHALL WE SAY... PERSONALITY PROBLEMS...

HEY! THIS "MUTANT MUDD" IS WEAK!!

S-SORRY.. I-I'LL MAKE YOU ANOTHER 'O-ONE S-SIR.

YOU BETTER!!

TWO

HMM SPICKET IS SUCH A SISSY! I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO TINKER ABOUT HIM! MY MICROWAVE DISHWASHER SEEMS TO BE ON THE FRITZ!
HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT HERE!
EEP!
TAKE IT OUTSIDE BUD!!!
SORRY.
SO THEN TINKER TALON CAME ALONG.
YEAH, ABOUT A WEEK AGO HIS SKOW WAS IN MY SECTOR SO I CALLED HIM
WHEN HE WAS HERE I WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH VANDAL VARMINT...
JUST ONE MORE TURN OF A SCREW, 'AN SHE'S JUST AS GOOD AS NEW!
NOW, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T HAVE MORE FRIENDS TINKER. YOUR POETRY STINKS!!
HEY! WHEN IS YOUR BOBBING BLOB OF A BARDROID GONNA LEARN TO MAKE A GOOD MUTANT MUDD HUHH?!!!
WHO'S THAT?
OH JUST VANDAL VARMINT, LOCAL BIG MOUTH! I'D BOUNCE HIM IF I HAD THE TIME!!
HOW 'BOUT LETTING "SPICKET" BOUNCE HIM?
SPICKET'S A SISSY!
EVEN IN HIS BOUNCER MODE?
WHAT BOUNCER MODE?

DIDN'T I MENTION THE BOUNCER MODE IN MY INSTRUCTIONS?
NOPE.
SPICKET C'MERE!!
SQUEEK!
I DIDN'T MENTION WHAT THIS RED BUTTON WAS FOR ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD?
NOPE.
THEN WATCH THIS!!
PTOING!
PING!
CLICK!
FWAP!
WHO DO YA' WANT ME TO PUNT OUT OF HERE BARK?
HAR HAR!! THE BOBBING BARDROID IS NOW A DINKY BOBBING-BARDROID!
THANKS TINK!
YOU'LL GET MY BILL!
YOU'LL GET MY PAYMENT!
DOG
WHAT-A-BIRD! A REAL SAINT BERNARD!
SMACK!
OK, MACK! WHAT DAHECK DO YA' WANT?!

WELL, MAYBE SPICKET STILL HAS A FEW BUGS! AT LEAST I HAVE A WORKING DISHWASHER!!
SNIFF!! SNIFF!! HUH? COFFEE?!!
HEY TINK!
TINK!!
WHAT AN AMUSING TALE OF TINKER TALON, BARKY THANK YOU.
HEY!
YER WELCOME MA'AM.
HEY! DID YOU SAY TALON?
I KNEW A "TALON" ONCE!
BE WITH ME FOR MY NEXT BROADCAST WHEN I INTERVEIW A SLIGHTLY INEBREATED GANDA. WHO FILLS US IN ON A PART OF TINKER HERETO UNKNOWN TO US... HIS SON! FOR ABC I'M BARBRA WALRUS. GOOD NEWS!

FIVE.

THE UNKNOWN HEROES?

By: Mike Kitchen

ATARI FORCE

... The final issue of one of today's best comics will be on the stands. This is the fault of two groups: the poor marketing staff of DC, and the ignorant fans who refuse to read a book because of its title.

When it first hit the stands, ATARI FORCE was considered the "video game comic book". Rich Jones, reporter reviewed from AMAZING HEROES, didn't let the Atari logo scare him. In his review, "Sound Off-sound", Jones was impressed with the Force's first issue, so much so that, in years end, he considered it the 8th best book of 1984. Don't believe it? Check out the new DC ads exhibiting this fact. But, let me tell you about the book and then I will editorialize.

With war and unfavorable land as consequence of the battles; dominating the populace of Earth, Burton Champion and the four other original members of the Force were sent out by A.T.A.R.I. (Advanced Technology and Research Institute) in search of a new home. Within the hull of Scanner One, they explored the Multiverse and found the perfect galaxy, one inhabited by peaceful and scientifically advanced societies.

While the Atari Force was claiming a habitable, uninhabited planet, the evil mastermind known as the Dark Destroyer sought revenge against them. They had stopped his plans in another part of the galaxy and now the Dark Destroyer had finally recovered. Having his powerful mind control, he turned the inhabitants of their new home against the Atari Force. In the end, the Force destroyed the Dark Destroyer. Or so they thought.

In New Earth, the human race found peace and Burton Champion found love. He married Lydia Perez, another member of Scanner One's original crew. Soon afterward, she was carrying Burton's son.

During childbirth, the Destroyer's essence invaded Lydia, stealing her life force. The unseen presence also passed through Burton's body, taking what it needed to become a complete organism.

Burton blamed himself for his wife's death and was the victim of severe depression. He alienated himself, shutting out the rest of the world, including Christopher, his newborn son. Owing so much to Champion, Atari didn't have the heart to tell him go so they set him occupy a pod attached to the Atari headquarters. From here, he sent out probes to find a source of evil that occupied their new home universe; a presence only he thought existed. Soon Indian, the source of this evil, Scanner One again scanned the Multiverse with Burton Champion as the Captain.

This new Atari Force consisted of a variety of interesting characters:

TORREST (Christopher Champion) is Burton's son. Because Lydia had been exposed to the multiverse unshielded during her pregnancy, Chris has the power to "phase" from one dimension to another at will. He is a short-tempered, yet self-conscious individual who has been emotionally injured by his father's rejections.

DARI is a mercenary and is Chris' adopted sister. Her adventures led her into forming a mercenary-company which she and her lover, Black Jak, head. At times, Dari has "some" potential futures.

HARRIA is a Congian empath and is Burton's Atari-assigned psychologist. Her personal disciplines allow her to view a man's mind and memory. Though needs built, her full power was exhibited in issue #7 where she freed trapped from the clutches of the Dark Destroyer.

ABB is Dupree's weak link. Abb is a child from the planet Ergo, who was brought to New Earth in a cryogenic ship. Captain in the hopes that the large child would form a profit. Dupree discovered false claim from Ergo. Abb's intelligence, and processed to gain legal custody of the child. Abb's colorful behavior and hopeless, sadness-like protectiveness, creates a more confused that is rarely seen in comics today.

PACK RAT is the final member of the team. Her cute little thief passed about Scanner One then Burton and escapes left Atari headquarters without permission. Luckily, yet towards Thief, it is not recommended that you corner him. Rat's, then he's unmanageable.

Along the way, new characters have found their way onto Scanner One. Taz and her lover Tempest (Black Jak's Kargo), an ex-slave of the Ark Destroyer, and Rident, Pack Rat's brother and customs officer who wants Pack Rat and the whole Atari Force behind bars, are just a portion of the supporting cast this book has featured. These delightful and mysterious beings come from the minds of Gerry Conway, Roy Thomas, and Jane Lopez-Lopez. Although Mr. Thomas helped in the creation, it was Gerry Conway's writing and Lopez' very talented pencils that expertly handled the book for the first twelve issues (note: Ross Andru pencilled issues four and five). With issue thirteen, Lopez left the book to replace George Perez on the ALL NEW TITANS, and Gerry Conway wrote his final Atari story. At the time, I thought this would mean serious drop in quality of the book, but issue #14 relieved my worries when, written above the logo on the cover, was the name Mike Baron. If you have not read NEXUS or BADGER or if you've

never heard of Mike Baron, I feel sorry for you. He is one of, if not the best writers in the industry. 'Nuff said.

I know what you're thinking: "Mike, who cares? You're the only person who thinks ATARI FORCE is any good, anyway." Not true. The fan's choices in this publication shows that it made the TOP 36 in the first four issues (and there was no TOP 36 in issue five). IT'S A FANZINE, a publication put out by the Iowa Comic Book Club, gave it a B- grade, ranking only 4 titles above it. In the COMIC BUYER'S GUIDE, artist named B. Hoyer said, "Of all [illegible] [illegible] ATARI FORCE, [illegible] comics [illegible] [illegible] don't read [illegible], but this one is good." [illegible] publication a regular review [illegible]

"If you like team books, you'll [illegible] for it. If you don't like [illegible], you'll flip for the [illegible]. If you don't like either [illegible], you are [illegible] old curmudgeon [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]."

[illegible], let's look to R.A. [illegible] [illegible] top ten books, placing ATARI FORCE second best. We all know that his final, true and choices included ATARI FORCE in [illegible] place, thanks to DC [illegible] it on their ads. Of course, [illegible] they didn't mention they were cancelling the [illegible] first came on the [illegible].

"Well, Mike, it must not be selling," is your next thought. Granted, ATARI FORCE doesn't make the top ten best selling titles list on the [illegible], but let's take a look at the sales figures according to the comic shops that participate in [illegible] TOP 100.

According to the monthly poll, ATARI [illegible] ranked as high as [illegible] place, and [illegible] the [illegible] on the [illegible]. It has sold an average of [illegible] [illegible] per store surveyed. [illegible] to that chart, the Force has consistently outsold HAWK, ACTION COMICS, and WONDER WOMAN, falling below [illegible] and SUPERMAN [illegible] 400 and [illegible] GREEN LANTERN issue, since the [illegible] began. DC doesn't seem to be in a hurry to cancel any of these slow selling titles.

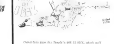
DC, to you guys and gals I have only one thing to say. Get on the ball! You have promoted the hell out of THRILLER and OMEGA, INC., two of the most boring books on consider, and the REDEEMER, a book yet to see print, when ATARI FORCE #1 hit the stands. A promotional poster finally came out when #2 came out. Keep ATARI FORCE. Keep Mike Baron on the writer, and the talented Ed Barreto on the art. Let the fans have a quality comic book.

Fans of ATARI [illegible] I can suggest is that we express our displeasure by writing to DC. If half of the original 400 letter writers that flooded DC's offices with praise of issue #1 complain of the cancellation, perhaps something will happen. Let's not give up.

[illegible] who have not read ATARI FORCE, I can't make you go out and buy a copy, but, try it. What if I met you at a comic convention or store and said, "You're name is [illegible]? I don't like people named [illegible]!" and walked away? Pretty closed-minded of me, wouldn't you say?

In closing, I would like to thank Roy Thomas, Gerry Conway, Jose Luis Garcia Lopez, Ricardo Villagran, Bob Layton, Tom Ziuko, Andy Helfner, Ross Andru, Joey Cavalier, Ed Barreto, Mike Baron, Ed Hannigan and all those who were featured in back-up features, for a wonderful adventure and a real great time. I wish we could continue. We will [illegible] you very much.

END



Characters from Ken Temple's WAR IS HECK, which will be appearing in a future issue of FANTASTIC FANZINE. Ken is a great story-teller and his charming style fits his tales perfectly. WATCH FOR IT!

DA SNOOP
THE FOLLOWING IS NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINION OF THE PUBLISHERS OF FANTASTIC FANZINE OR THEIR SUBSCRIBERS.

Da Snoop has attended lotsa cons lately and here's what's shakin': Da first stop on my latest tour wuz da DETROIT METRO AREA DEALER'S ASSOCIATION show. Dis show started out wit' Da Snoop sneakin' in wit' da rest o' da FANTASTIC FANZINE crew an' bein' treated to a hot cup o' java wit' da rest o' da dealers. Ahhh! Just what dis ol' dog needed to start da day. Dere were many new dealer faces at dis show, wit' a nice array o' goods. Bringin' in some 200 plus people, dis show had a theme, which was G.I. JOE. Karen Prister o' da Book Bin in Dearborn says dat each show will have some type o' theme. Dere wuz video movies, which is always a treat to Da Snoop, an art contest and a costume contest (which Da Snoop was one o' da judges for!). Participants ranged from six years and up. Never has Da Snoop seen so many younger faces at a con. Not since da late 70's anyhow. Thought maybe dere wouldn't be much money floatin' around, but all da dealers I talked to sounded pleased. Needless to say, dis show wuz a success.

No less successful wuz da X-TRAVA-FUN a week later. Over 200 fans showed up fer da fun. Also in attendance wuz fe artists Tim Dzon and Guy Davis, plus Ken Temple who will be appearing in da 'zine wit' MAR IS HECK in an upcoming issue. Randy Zimmerman and Susan Van Camp were dere to talk to editor Stu Kerr about an upcoming project even Da Snoop doesn't know 'bout yet (but, I plans ta get da scoop, somehow!) Dere were movies and gaming d demo's, plus da world famous raffle. Dis raffle has seen some great prizes, like AVENGERS #1 and JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83. Maybe in da future we'll see a complete run o' X-MEN from 94 to da present. Da Snoop says don't miss dis show either.

Next, onto Chicago for a Creation Con. Sorry, but Da Snoop wuz a little disappointed wit' dis one. First da outrageous $12.00 daily to get in. So much fer buyin' any Alan Moore SWAMP THING's, sheesh! In da dealers room dere wuz about 80 tables, 15 or so of which wuz comics. Da rest o' da show wuz taken up by Trekkies and Dr. Who nuts, along wit' all da paraphernelia: buttons, patches, T-shirts, posters and what not. Dere wuz a wide selection o' movies ta see, tho', and Marvel reps Carl Potts and Chris Claremont wuz dere chatting wit' da fans. Potts wuz impressed by da improvements in our 'zine since #1 (who isn't?). Very good fer da motivation department!

Da show wuz well attended by fans. In da five or six hours Da Snoop wuz dere, I musta seen close to 500 people. Notice when I say fans dat dis includes da Star Trek and Dr. Who fans (what do you call 'em, anyway? Whofans? Whozits? Just plain nuts?). All in all, dis show wuz not up to what Da Snoop expected.

Special thanks to our good friend and supporter Donna Brazeau fer puttin' us up at da Chicago Hyatt Regency and puttin' up wit' us fer da weekend. Thanks, Shweet-'art!

By da way, if ya ever attends a convention at da Congress Hotel in Chicago, never ask anyone where ta find a pop machine. After various hotel employees told us to look on da 12th, 3rd, 8th, 9th, and10th floors (dere isn't even a 10th floor in da place. Not one we could find via elavator or stairs, anyhow), Da Snoop finally found one on da 7th floor. During da search we musta covered about a mile vertically.

'Til next time, don't get caught in a strange hotel wit' a thirst ta quench!

Chow for now
da Snoop

FANTASTIC FLASHES.....!

***K thy Kostivas, First Comics Sales Manager has reported forged copies of the first printing of SHATTER SPECIAL #1. The forgers have reportedly added a small 'number 1' next to the printing number in the indica. Also, the forgeries have a $2.45 Canadian price as apposed to $2.25 on the originals. Another difference to look for is the absence of the "Coming in April" banner on the back cover ad.

***First is releasing WHISPER #1, presenting the conclusion of the saga begun at Capital Comics. This book includes a preview of a new anthology series starring Dynamo Joe.

***Marvel will be releasing SAVAGE TALES #1 in July. This will be a black and white magazine featuring adventure stories set in a variety of locals, past, present and future. The first issue will sport a Micheal Golden painted cover.

***Jack Kirby is drawing a SUPER POWERS six issue mini-series for DC. SUPER POWERS #1 picks up where the HUNGER DOGS graphic novel leaves off, although each story will stand on its own.

***Eclipse will release the first independant comic priced at 75¢. July will see the release of MIRACLE MAN #1, written by Alan Mooreand illustrated by Garry Leach and Alan Davis.

***A Nightcrawler four issue mini is due from Marvel in July. Dave Cockrum will be he writer/artist for the series the writer/artist for the series.

***July will also see the release of Marvel Graphic Novel #17, REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH, starring Spiderman,the Fantastic Four, Captain America and Iron Man. Written by David Michelmie and illustrated by Marc Silvestri and Geoff Isherwood.

AS THE GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY FALLS INTO DECAY, THE PIRATE EMPIRE, LED BY CAPTAIN ALBINO BLYDE, PLUNDERS COUNTLESS WORLDS. BUT ONE ORGANIZATION STANDS FIRM IN OPPOSITION.... AN OUTBRANCH OF THE CELESTIAL FEDERATION KNOWN AS....

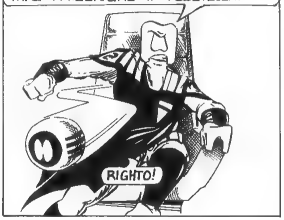
THE STAR CORPS

LAST ISSUE: CAPTAIN QUONTO OF THE USS PARADOX FOUND HIMSELF ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY THREE PIRATE CRUISERS....

TO THE VICTOR LIFE

BUT AS THE SHIPS' COM/SCAN OFFICER, SYNDI, IS ABOUT TO TELL HIM, THINGS ARE WORSE.

ART/PLOT GUY DAVIS
INKS TIM DZON



TNN!

THIS IS GROUP LEADER CAPTAIN STRYKER TO ALL CRAFT! START YOUR ATTACK, DESTROY THE PARADOX ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

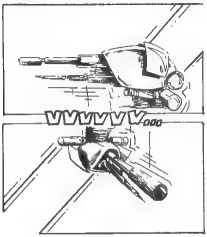
CAPTAIN ODEPUS, ACKNOWLEDGED.

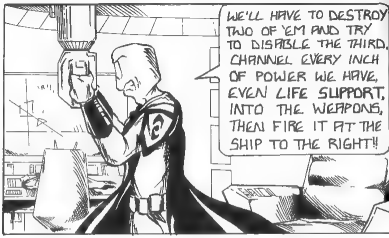
CAPTAIN BRIER, ACKNOWLEDGED.

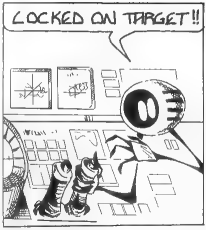
THE PIRATE CRAFTS FIRE SIMULTANEOUS, THEIR DESTRUCTIVE LASER BOLTS IMPACTING AGAINST THE PARADOX' SHIELDS.

CAPTAIN! SHIELDS ARE BEGINING TO BUCKLE!

ZARK THE PRISONERS! PLOOVO, ARM THE MAIN GUN TURRETS!!

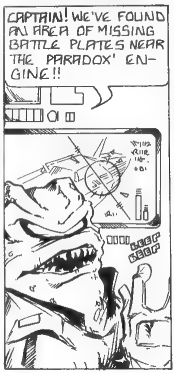


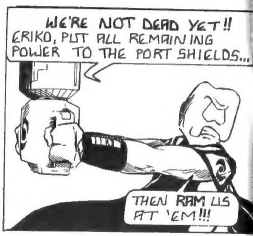


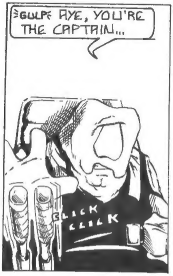


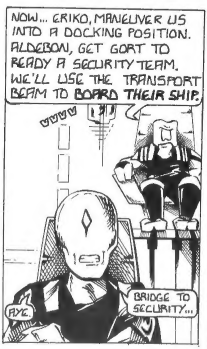
LIGHTS TEMPORARILY DARKEN AS ALL POWER IS PUT INTO THE GUNS AND SPEWED AT THE PIRATE CRAFT.

RESULTING IN TOTAL DESTRUCTION!!









MINUTES LATER QUONTO, PLOOVO, AND GORTS' SECURITY TEAM ARE TRANSPORTED TO THE PIRATE SHIP.

KEEP YOUR WEAPONS ON STUN. WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT MORE ON THEIR LEADER, BLYDE, AND WHERE THEIR BASE IS.
I WOULDN'T EXPECT MUCH OF A FIGHT... THAT SHIP'S IN PRETTY ROUGH SHAPE.
ONCE INSIDE...
WATCH YOURSELVES... GORT CHECK THE COMPUTER BANKS. PLOOVO, COVER ME.
SHEESH! WHAT A MESS....
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY INFORMATION OUT OF THEM...THEY'RE LONG DEAD.
CROT!
WHAT!? WAIT A MINIT, HE'S STILL ALIVE!
EH... MMPPH...UH...
WAKE UP! C'MON WAKE UP!! YOU'RE NOT DYING ON ME YET!
EH... WHO...?
LISTEN TO ME! LISTEN!! WHERE'S BLYDE!? WHERE'S THE PIRATE HOMEWORLD?
B... BLYDE...
HEH... HEH... C-C-CAPTAIN QUONTO... HEH... DON'T...
PTOO!

HEH... B...BLYDE WILL FIND YOU... DON'T W-WORRY... HE'LL ... FIND ... Y... YOUUU...

DAMN! STILL NO IDEA WHERE THEIR BASE IS.

DATTA BANKS ARE ERASED AND THE CARGO HOLD'S EMPTY, CAPTAIN, THIS SHIP WAS PROBABLY AN ESCORT TO THE ONE WE DESTROYED... IT WAS...

IT WAS EXPENDABLE ... WHAT A WASTE.
WE'RE DONE HERE, HEAD BACK TO THE SHIP.

SOME DAY WE'LL FIND BLYDE AND THEN WE'LL RID THE UNIVERSE OF HIS FILTH ONCE AND FOR ALL ... I PROMISE.

CAPTAINS LOG: WITH POWER RESTORED 75% THE PARADOX IS HEADING FOR THE NEAREST STARBASE FOR FULL REPAIRS."
THE PARADOX SLOWLY LIMPS AWAY DISCARDING THE PIRATE VESSEL TO THE GRAVE OF SPACE...
NEXT ISSUE: BLYDE TAKES MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS IN...
PIRATES' WRATH

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